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Updates

03/03/2010: Deceased Brothers: Vito Aresto (United States); Br Vianney (Denis Gordon) Dignam - Sydney

03/03/2010: Photo gallery: Remodeling work at the Hermitage - 88

03/03/2010: Assembly of Province of Nigeria on the 21st General Chapter

02/03/2010: Meeting of the fraternities of the ChMMF of Fortaleza

02/03/2010: West Central Europe Provincial Chapter - 12 to 17 February 2010

01/03/2010: The Marists in Chile after the earthquake

01/03/2010: Christopher Columbus High School - Miami

01/03/2010: Celibacy: Prophetic Witness (2) - Br. Vitus Osuji

01/03/2010: New Marist link: CEPAM - Patrimonio Espiritual Marista (Mexico)

28/02/2010: 100 years of Marist presence in Avellanes

26/02/2010: Workshop for Community Animators of the Brothers and Communities of « the Southern Cone » - Chile

26/02/2010: Worldwide presence - Photo gallery number 247

26/02/2010: Marist Studies at the University of Salamanca

Earthquake in Chile

The Marists after the earthquake

A few hours after the strong earthquake which shook Chile, Brother Jesús Pérez, Mission Delegate of the Province of Santa María de los Andes in Chile, sent an urgent communication describing the situation.



"After contacting all the places where the Brothers are living or working, I can say that we have suffered no personal damage. I can say this with regard to the Brothers and also those who work with us, according to the information that has reached us up to now. Of the places where we work, the most delicate situation would be that of Curicó, from the information I possess. On sending this urgent mail, I hope for some echos that can complete my information.

In Curicó the Brothers have had no major problem. The shock mentioned above was increased by seeing the situation of many neighbouring houses which are badly damaged or in very bad shape. The college has suffered some serious damage, which requires further examination, in the area

of the offices. This part is of old construction, of adobe, remodelled. There has also been a problem in the last building work carried out. The town, it appears, is very damaged.

Material damage to the Brothers' houses has been minimal. The earthquake has broken connection with the TV, at least in three houses. In the other colleges there has also been damage, but minor. As more information comes in, we will bring you up to date".

Although Chile is accustomed to and prepared for these situations, the intensity was such (up to grade 9.0) that it is possible that there has been serious damage to the infrastructure. Santiago airport itself should be closed for at least 72 hours.

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Ground communications remain cut and also partly telecommunications for lack of light in large areas. There have also been difficulties with the supply of water.

The government has taken control with respective measures very quickly. Among them, the delay in the be-

ginning of classes, which affects our Marist educational works directly. The majority of the students should have begun classes on Monday. The government has postponed the opening until the 8th.

Many thanks to those who were worried about us.

A warm embrace and union in prayer. Now we need to take a wider view to see who is more needy of a helping hand from us.

Br. Jesús Pérez
Mission Delegate



The Letters of Champagnat: Biographical and Topographical References

An indispensable work for researchers of the Marist Patrimony

The publishing house, Editorial Luis Vives of Zaragoza, has finished printing, in Spanish, the second part of the Letters of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, containing the biographical and topographical notes on the persons and places mentioned in the letters written by Champagnat. The volume is entitled "Crónicas maristas VI. Cartas del P. Champagnat – 2. Biografías y topónimos". As Brother Paul Sester cogently observes in the Foreword: "Despite its title, this second volume of the Letters of Champagnat does not contain any letters, strictly speaking. It simply offers information useful for a better understanding of the texts contained in the first volume".

The bulky volume of 520 pages, elegantly bound, adds to the collection of "Crónicas maristas", published by the same workshop in 1985, and is number 6 in the series. Its publication culminates the process of delivering the writings of our holy Founder into the hands of readers of Spanish. The first volume of the collection published Marcellin's letters, a precious instrument for submerging ourselves in his ideas and getting to know his feelings. The last volume published offers de-

scriptions of the persons and places mentioned in the letters, as an indispensable complement for situating the context and facilitating understanding by giving presence and features to the persons and places involved.

At the beginning of the work is a presentation by Brother Antonio Aragón Martón, who translated the volume from French into Spanish, and a foreword by Brother Paul Sester, which situates the work within the collection. The bulk of the work is divided into four parts. The first describes the political and ecclesiastical life of France in the XIX century. The second is devoted to the biographies, in alphabetical order, of all the persons mentioned in Champagnat's letters. The third describes the places included in the letters. The fourth part provides indexes of subjects, personal and place names, and illustrations to help readers work easily through its pages.

There are two authors. Br. Raymond Borne, tireless researcher for four years in diocesan, departmental, municipal and family archives in France and in the general house in Rome, has gathered a copious amount of information and

data as the basis for the work. For his part, Br. Paul Sester, has arranged and given shape and life to all this information. His language makes for easy and accessible reading.

Brother Paul Sester makes a very sensible observation about the contents of this volume. "As will be seen, these references go well beyond the historical period of the Letters. There are two reasons for that. First, it was difficult not to describe, at least in broad outline, the entire lifespan of persons or works. Then the research which had to be done, especially on the life of the first brothers, produced a mass of information which threw new light on the history of the beginnings of our Institute. The enthusiasm this work aroused, and a sense that it was only just to give our pioneers the place they deserve in the memory of their successors, not merely as part of an anonymous group, but as individuals with distinctive personal traits, were what ultimately determined the scope of this volume."

We warmly welcome this work, which will be very useful for coming to know Champagnat, and an inestimable resource for researchers.



West Central Europe

Provincial Chapter - 12 to 17 February 2010



The Brothers gathered together in Ciney, Belgium, following a number of changes in the Province. Brother Joe had been elected to the position of Vicar General and Brother Brendan had been elected Provincial of West-Central Europe. According to the Constitutions it was necessary to convene a Provincial Chapter which, among other things, would elect four Brothers Councillors to work with Brother Brendan

We were fortunate to have with us Brother Emili, Superior General and Brother Joe McKee, Vicar General.

In spite of wintry conditions and travel difficulties, the capitulants gathered together to be welcomed by Brother Brendan. Brother Emili officially passed over the leadership of the Province to Brendan, in the absence of Brother Joe, whose flight from Rome was delayed.

The main priorities of the Chapter were Partnership, Vocations and Leadership. Facilitated by Sister Kathleen, the Brothers and invited lay-people discussed the topics in depth.

Reports were given by representatives of the Provincial Commissions, followed by time to discuss any issues arising.

We pray for the new members of the Council, Brother Maurice Taildemann (Belgium), Brother Michael Schmalzl (Germany), Brother P.J.McGowan (Ireland) and Brother Robert Thunus (Belgium). We pray that they find in Mary of the Visitation and in Champagnat of Montagne the strength and inspiration to take the Brothers towards new horizons.



100 years of Marist presence in Avellanes

New digital image of the Monastery inaugurated

Within the framework of the celebration of the centenary of the presence of the Marists in Les Avellanes, we present you with the new digital image of the monastery through the new web portal you can find at www.monestirdelesavellanes.com

In this new portal are present, for the first time, forming a unique combination, all the services and activities which are offered by the Monastery of les Avellanes.

The new portal has been created with the intention of showing the monastery integrated into its geographical surroundings; on it we have posted information to help our visitors gain information about the rich possibilities offered by our region.

With the web portal, the Monestir de les Avellanes enters further into the world of social networks, converting itself into Monestir 2.0. The blog, facebook, twitter, photographs, videos...,

all together on the same page with the objective of encouraging collaboration and the fast and efficient exchange of information between the monastery, its surroundings, and interested persons and organizations.

In summer 2009, work began on broadening and improving the diffusion of the services and proposals offered by the Monastery of les Avellanes through the digital media. From the Monastery we initiated a process intended to

lead to the creation of the new digital image we are offering today to inaugurate this new web portal. This time we have achieved a new goal. We found a method for working and our efforts came to a good conclusion. The team which will maintain the Monastery web is made up of the people of the house, who are committed to spending part of their time on this task. The agendas have been full of words: planning, meeting, discussion, designing, setting

up, evaluating... The work well done has no boundaries and has reached the time for seeing its fruit.

Before concluding, the Monestir Web Team would like to thank Jordi Tutzó, computer specialist for Marist Catalonia, for his collaboration and the time he has put in; without his help we would not have this portal on the web. We would also like to thank Brother Antonio Martínez Estaún and Luiz Da

Rosa, director and webmaster respectively of www.champagnat.org for their technical collaboration in the centenary videos, and Josep Sansalvador for his help in graphic matters. And many thanks, too, to all who form part of Monestir 2.0. In this digital space, we rely on friends who support us, visitors who read our blog or look out of the facebook, etc. Our very sincere thanks. Welcome!



"Men integrated and integrating"

Chile: Workshop for Community Animators of the Brothers and Communities of the Southern Cone

Faced with the challenges of the new times, to continue to strengthen our role as community animators. Such was one of the objectives of the workshop which, at the request of the Provincials, was held for the second time running. 25 Brothers gathered to live the experience of this workshop in fraternity.

There were four main subjects. The first touched on «personal acquaintance as the base of any relationship». Ana María, a competent animator, motivated us to do a rereading of our personal histories, to give a new meaning to our «dreams» and to work on our hurts. This work was followed by: «the human and spiritual processes of different stages of life». Group work centred on the different characteristics of the life stages: child, dreamer, hero, master and, finally, sage. Ana María completed her contributions with the topic «The mission of community animators», inviting us to avoid conflicts, resolve them, and transform them into positive experiences.

The fourth subject, animated by Brother Patricio Pino, was an introduction to Marcellin as a community animator, by means of his letters, a work which encouraged us to find our roots.



Something which merits recording about this meeting was the videoconference we had with Brother Superior General, Emili Turú, on Saturday morning. He encouraged us to be animators of our Brothers and ourselves, and, starting from the rich experience of encountering God, «to go in haste, with Mary, to a new lands!»

Other important aspects were the organization of the workshops on small communities, community works, the daily brotherly encounters, the simple but deep prayers, firmly rooted in our spirituality.

At the end, we watched a video presenting some experiences. At the time of the closing celebration, each Brother received a little house (donated by Peru), with the recommendation to light the lamps of our communities and make sure they did not go out.

Some echos of the meeting:

- The richness of many "accounts" of personal life which posed new challenges and calls to growth.
- The need to make a synthesis, in our religious life, of the human and the spiritual. An immense challenge to be taken up, urgent and expected.

